WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Rep. Pete Stark (D-Fremont) issued the following letter to the Inspector General of the Department of Defense urging that his office launch an immediate investigation into allegations that the rescue of Private Jessica Lynch was a fabrication and staged for publicity purposes:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

June 2, 2003

Joseph E. Schmitz
Inspector General
Department of Defense
400 Army-Navy Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Schmitz,

I am writing to follow-up on the letter sent to you recently by Representatives Rahm Emanuel and Louise Slaughter calling for an investigation into the rescue of Private Jessica Lynch and allegations brought forth by the British Broadcasting Corporation that it was staged for publicity purposes. I would like to add my name to the list of those who are requesting such an investigation.

The recent report from the British Broadcasting Corporation alleging that Private Lynch's rescue may have been fabricated for television audiences is appalling. Allegations from a physician at the hospital are that the US military personnel involved in the rescue fired blanks from their rifles and staged explosions when there was no Iraqi military presence in the area. This same doctor claims that he had arranged to deliver Private Lynch to US forces two days prior to their purported rescue operation and after Iraqi soldiers had already evacuated the facility. There are allegations that the Pentagon misrepresented the nature of Private Lynch's

injuries as well.

If these allegations prove true, the US military put Private Lynch's life at greater risk in order to produce a made-for -TV event to boost public support for the war. And, may have spent significant resources doing so. Again, if true, it is hardly a fitting way to treat Private Lynch in light of her bravery and courage.

I urge you to take immediate action to investigate this matter so that the truth might be fully known.

Sincerely,

Pete Stark
Member of Congress